



For Immediate Release
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BREAKING:
BOULDER'S LOCAL THEATER COMPANY ANNOUNCES
LOCAL LAB 2020 DIRECTORS

Laurie Woolery (Director, Public Works at The Public Theater),
Pirronne Yousefzadeh (Associate Artistic Director, Geva Theatre Center), **Betty Hart** (Assistant Director, David Byrne and Mala Gaonkar's *Theater of the Mind*), **Ilasiea Gray** (*Flame Broiled. or the ugly play*), and **Nick Chase** (Associate Artistic Director, Local Theater Company) to helm Local Lab 2020 new play festival readings.

March 4, 2020—(BOULDER, CO) Local Theater Company announces directing lineup for their annual festival of new American plays, Local Lab. Laurie Woolery will direct Sandra Delgado's *Hundreds and Hundreds of Stars*; Betty Hart will direct Josh Koenigsberg's *Vroom Vroom*; Pirronne Yousefzadeh will direct Jessica Huang's *Mother of Exiles*; and Ilasiea Gray and Nick Chase will co-direct the LocalWRITES plays.

Founding Artistic Director Peshia Rudnick says, "the relevance and vitality of this year's Lab selections has never felt more urgent. Live theater may not change the world, but it offers community a chance to examine our collective humanity and offer hope during conflicting times." She continued, "I am energized—and in awe of—these remarkable directors that will participate in this year's Lab!"

Now in its ninth year, Local Lab has become Boulder's premier new play festival, featuring professionally-staged readings, innovative post-show discussions with playwrights, and numerous parties and panels. Local Lab serves as the first step in Local Theater Company's development pipeline, with the possibility of readings culminating in a full production. Previous Local Lab plays include the Colorado Theater Guild Henry Award-winning play *Paper Cut* by Andrew Rosendorf, *The Rape of the Sabine Women, By Grace B. Matthias* by Michael Yates Crowley, and *Wisdom From Everything* by Mia McCullough. Since its inception, Lab has developed 35 new plays and many of the participating playwrights have earned regional, off-Broadway and Broadway premieres. In 2015 the Denver Post named Lab "one of five reasons this region's theater scene is on the national map" and earned a "Best of Boulder" recognition from Boulder Weekly.

Local Lab 2020

Dates: March 13 - 15, 2020

Location: Dairy Arts Center, Grace Gamm Theater | 2590 Walnut Street, Boulder CO 80302

Website: LocalTheaterCo.org/LocalLab2020

Cost: \$125 for All-Access Pass (includes 4 readings, 2 parties, innovative post-show gatherings and a playwrights panel, moderated by *The Denver Posts* Lisa Kennedy); Individual-reading tickets: \$20

Festival Schedule

READING 1

Friday, March 13, 7pm

Play: *Hundreds and Hundreds of Stars*

Playwright: Sandra Delgado

About the play: Like millions of Americans, Clara's days are consumed with juggling work and family. Recently divorced, she's taking care of her tween-age daughter, her aging father – and paying alimony to her under-employed ex-husband. But in the midst of all that stress, she's got something to look forward to: a long planned for trip to Europe with her daughter Stella. In preparation, Clara, who immigrated to the US with her family as a child, decides to apply for full citizenship. She wants to be able to stand in the same customs line as Stella. But when her citizenship application is flagged, it sets off an unfathomable series of events that threaten to force her out of the only home she's ever known. Timely and provocative, *Hundreds and Hundreds of Stars* asks challenging questions about our country's most fundamental values.

READING 2

Saturday, March 14, 11am

LocalWRITES Student Play Presentation

About the plays: The members of LocalWRITES, a playwriting program offered to emerging-bilingual and English-speaking students at Casey Middle School in Boulder, have been working hard all year. Now, they're ready to share their work with you. Watch as professional actors, under the guidance of a skilled director, perform these student-written plays. You won't want to miss what these insightful teenagers have to say.

READING 3

Saturday, March 14, 7pm

Play: *Vroom Vroom*

Playwright: Josh Koenigsberg

About the play: When a used Chevy dealership in upstate New York finds out their local rival, Wild Ron, is trying to put them out of business, they'll have one week to band together over the holidays to keep their business alive...or else infighting and scandal may shut them down for good. A comedy about the high-speed pursuit of the American Dream.

READING 4

Sunday, March 15, 2pm

Play: *Mother of Exiles*

Playwright: Jessica Huang

About the play: *Mother of Exiles* follows the Loi family's journey through America across 200 years—as they are ushered along by the spirits of their ancestors. In 1898 California, a pregnant Eddie Loi faces deportation. In 1998 Miami, her grandson Braulio accidentally summons her spirit while patrolling the border. In 2098 somewhere on the ocean, their descendants try to survive.

About Local Theater Company

Local Theater Company (Local) is a nonprofit theater company that discovers, develops, and produces new American plays. Local engages audiences through innovative performances that spark camaraderie, learning, contemplation, and provide a resourceful environment for theater artists to take creative risks and develop their work. Local believes theater is a local experience. When you enter an audience, a new community is created where, for that brief span of time, everyone is a local. Learn more at localtheaterco.org. Engage with us on Facebook and Instagram.